

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 10826 091308Z

65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 OC-06 CCO-00

TRSE-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 FBIE-00 CIAE-00 EURE-00

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P R 091216Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6141

AMEMBASSY PARIS

DEA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10826

PARIS FOR REGION 17 HQS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SNAR, TGEN, UR, US

SUBJECT: ARREST OF AMCITS ALLEGEDLY TRANSPORTING HEROIN:
INVESTIGATIVE ASPECTS

REF: PARIS 19607, MOSCOW 10479

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES RAPID PROVISION OF QUESTIONS IN REF B. THESE QUESTIONS, IN SLIGHTLY MODIFIED FORM, HAVE BEEN PROVIDED AS ATTACHMENT TO LETTER FROM EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR TO ACTING HEAD, USA DIVISION, MFA. COPY OF LETTER AND ATTACHMENTS MAY BE PROVIDED TO OTHER APPROPRIATE SOVIET OFFICIALS AS OCCASIONS ARISE.

2. EMBASSY IS CONTINUING THE SEPARATION OF ITS CONSULAR AND DRUG-CONTROL FUNCTIONS IN THIS CASE. THIS SEPARATION, IN OUR VIEW, IS VITAL TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE LATER QUESTION OF THE USG ASSISTING IN THE PROCESS OF SENDING US CITIZENS TO SOVIET PRISONS (FYI. RECENT CONVICTIONS OF WESTERN EUROPEANS ON CANNABIS OFFENSES HAVE DRAWN HARD-LABOR SENTENCES).

3. ALL CONSULAR ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES TO THE THREE ACCUSED
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 10826 091308Z

AMCITS WILL OCCUR IN PRESENCE OF SOVIET OFFICIALS (AND A

TRANSLATOR), SO THAT OUR (OR DEA) DIRECTLY POSING THESE QUESTIONS, WHICH CERTAINLY BEAR ON LEGAL STANDING OF AMCITS, IS NOT POSSIBLE UNTIL LEGAL SITUATION SETTLED. POLCOUNS'S LETTER THANKED SOVIETS FOR COOPERATION BUT CAREFULLY AVOIDED SUPPOSITION OF GUILT OF AMCITS, AND REQUESTED ASAP FROM SOVIETS ANSWERS WHICH ARISE IN THE COURSE OF THEIR INVESTIGATION.

4. REGION 17'S CONCERN ON INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONING OF DEFENDANTS HAS ALREADY BEEN MET BY SOVIETS: DEFENDANTS HAVE NOT HAD SINCE ARREST NOR, ACCORDING TO SOVIET AUTHORITIES, WILL THEY HAVE UNTIL INVESTIGATION CONCLUDED ANY CONTACT WHATSOEVER WITH ONEANOTHER (DURING INITIAL CONSULAR ACCESS, SOVIET AUTHORITIES PERMITTED CONSUL ONLY TO PASS "BEST WISHES" FROM AMSTER TO BURN).

5. ALTHOUGH THE ARREST OF THE THREE AMERICANS HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THE US PRESS, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THEIR NAMES HAVE BEEN WITHHELD. THE CASE IS UNLIKELY TO APPEAR IN THE SOVIET PRESS, AT LEAST UNTIL THE TRIAL BEGINS.

6. EMBASSY MOSCOW NARCOTICS COORDINATOR WILL ARRIVE PARIS (AMBASSADORIAL SUPPORT FLIGHT) ON LEAVE EVENING 8 JULY AND WILL CONTACT DEA REG HQS 9 JULY TO DISCUSS CASE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG TRAFFIC, HEROIN, INVESTIGATIONS, ARRESTS, DRUG SEIZURES
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Draft Date: 09 JUL 1976
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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